

*Amendments to the Specification*

Please replace the paragraph beginning on line 6 of page 1 and ending on line 17 of page 1 with the following replacement paragraph:

The present invention is related to subject matter disclosed in the following co-pending applications, which are all hereby incorporated by reference herein in their entireties:

1. United States patent application entitled, "Error Insertion Circuit for SONET Forward Error Correction", Serial Number 09/821,948 ~~attorney docket no.: M-8353~~ US, naming Andrew J. Thurston and Douglas Duschatko as inventors and filed substantially contemporaneously with the present application;
2. United States patent application entitled, "BCH Forward Error Correction Decoder", Serial Number 09/822,950 ~~attorney docket no.: M-8342~~ US, naming Andrew J. Thurston as inventor and filed substantially contemporaneously with the present application; and
3. United States patent application entitled, "Galois Field Multiply Accumulator", Serial Number 09/822,733 ~~attorney docket no.: M-8341~~ US, naming Andrew J. Thurston as inventor and filed substantially contemporaneously with the present application.